HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE L.NARASIMHA REDDY

WRIT PETITION No.16610 of 2007

Dated:06.08.2007

Between:

A.V.N.Susheela and another.

…Petitioners.

and

Saradamba Mahila Cooperative Bank, and others.

…Respondents.

HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE L.NARASIMHA REDDY

WRIT PETITION No.16610 of 2007

ORDER:

The petitioners claim to be the members of Sri Saradamba Mahila Co-operative Bank, Satyanarayanapuram, Vijayawada, the 1st respondent herein. Elections to the Managing Committee of the Society, are in progress. Initially, a draft voters' list was published, and thereafter, a final voters' list was published. The petitioners contend that hundreds of persons, who are otherwise ineligible, are included in the voters' list. It is complained that the request of the petitioners to furnish a copy of the voters' list, was not acceded to.

Heard learned Counsel for the petitioners and learned Government Pleader for Co-operation.

Neither in the Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Societies Act, 1964, nor in the Rules made thereunder, there is any provision, which obligates a society to furnish the copy of the voters' list. Under Rule 22 (2)(b), a final voters' list, prepared by the society, has to be displayed

and that would constitute the basis for elections. Further, once the Election Officer is appointed, he would be the custodian of the relevant records. However, notwithstanding the fact that there is no provision, placing obligation on the society, to furnish a copy of the voters' list, transparency and fairness can be ensured by directing the Election Officer to furnish a copy of the voters' list, to the petitioners, on payment of the charges, for copying it. No prejudice would be caused to any one, if such a course is adopted.

For the foregoing reasons, the Writ Petition is disposed of, directing the Election Officer to furnish a copy of the final voters' list of the 1st respondent-Bank, to the petitioners, on payment of charges, for copying it, within three days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. There shall be no order as to costs.

Dt.06.08.2007 **L.NARASIMHA REDDY, J**

GJ